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BLUEROSE



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IT'S YOUR TURN TO SLIDE THE FOOD IN.

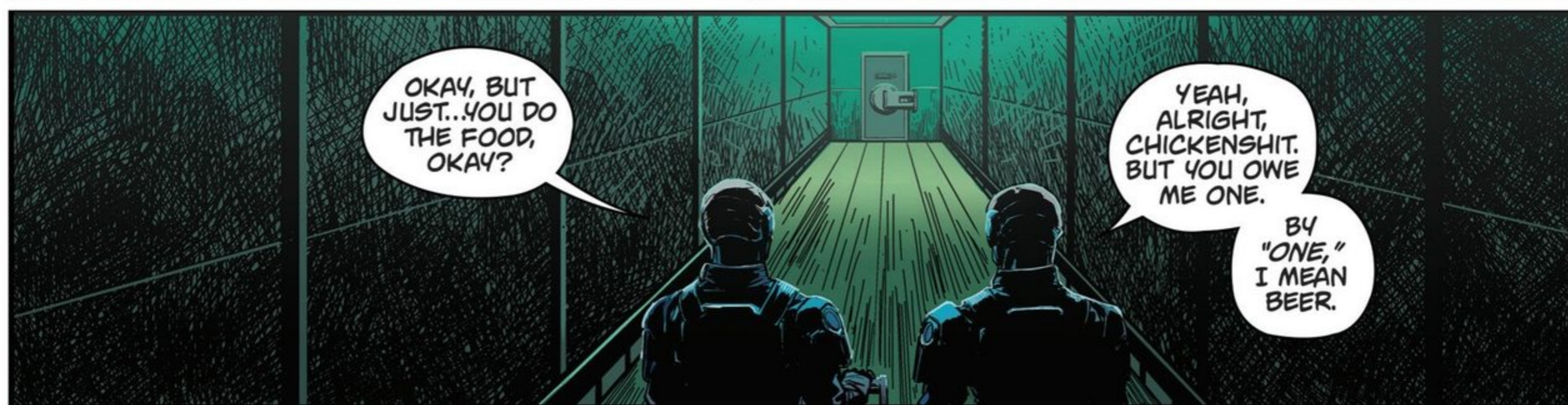
A GROWN MAN, A MEMBER OF THE INTERPLANETARY PEACEKEEPING AND PENITENTIARY FORCE, THE GREATEST ORDER-IMPOSING BODY IN THE GALAXY, IS SCARED OF SOMEONE ALREADY IN CUSTODY?



"THE PRISONER IN CELL BLOCK X"? THE MOST DANGEROUS CRIMINAL IN THE GALAXY? YEAH, I'M NOT SHITTING MY PANTS WITH JOY AT THIS ASSIGNMENT.

LOOK, THIS IS THE MOST SECURE WING IN THE HIGHEST SECURITY PRISON IN THIS SECTOR.

NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.



OKAY, BUT JUST...YOU DO THE FOOD, OKAY?

YEAH, ALRIGHT, CHICKENSHIT. BUT YOU OWE ME ONE.

BY "ONE," I MEAN BEER.



UP AND AT 'EM, BEAUTIFUL. CHOW TIME.



SNORT!

FUCK!



SLORP
GLOPP
SLORP

LET'S SAY HE DOES MANAGE TO BUST OUT OF THIS CELL, THE CELL BLOCK, AND EVEN THE WHOLE PRISON--

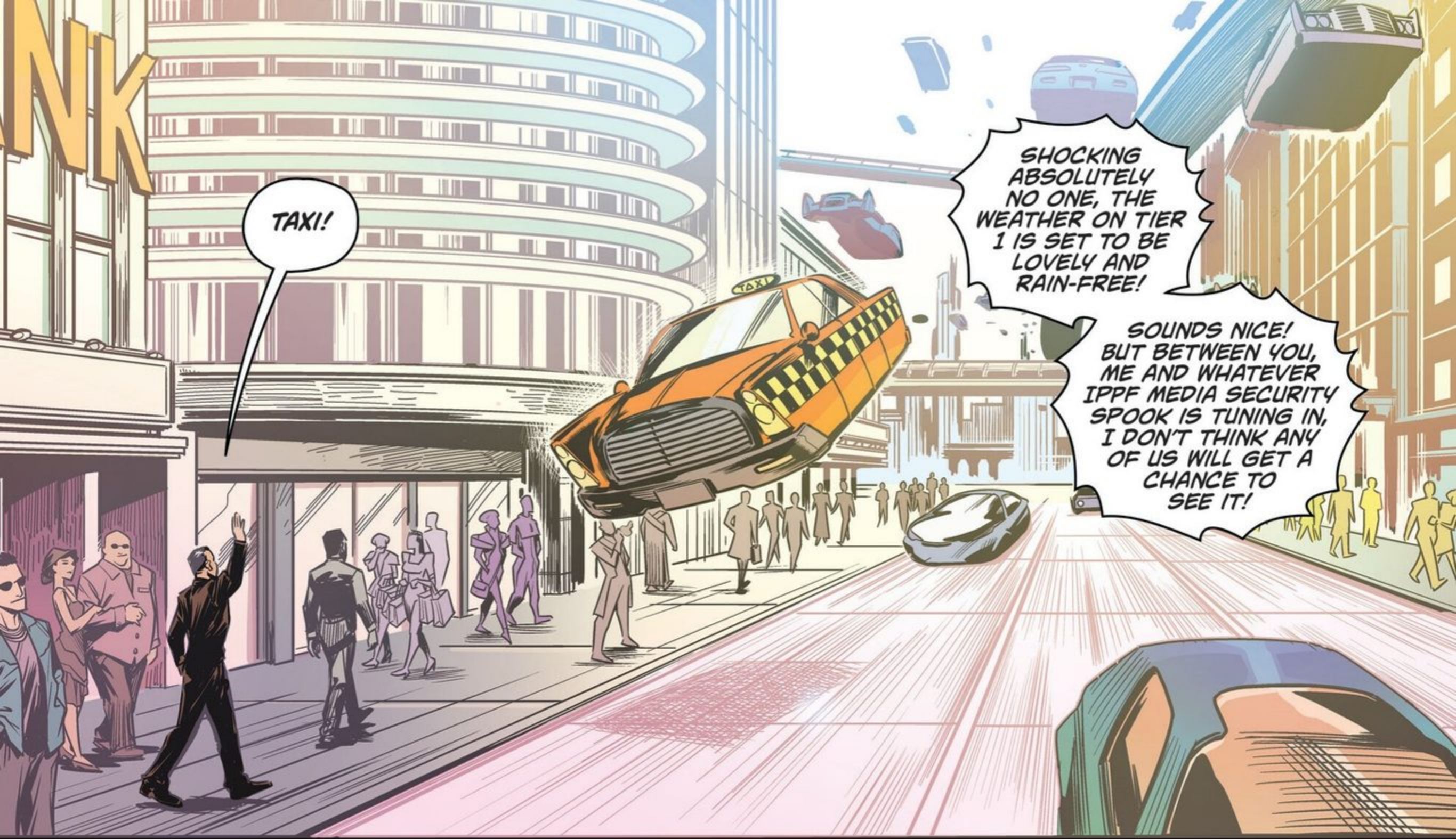
I MEAN, YES, HE WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY KILL YOU--

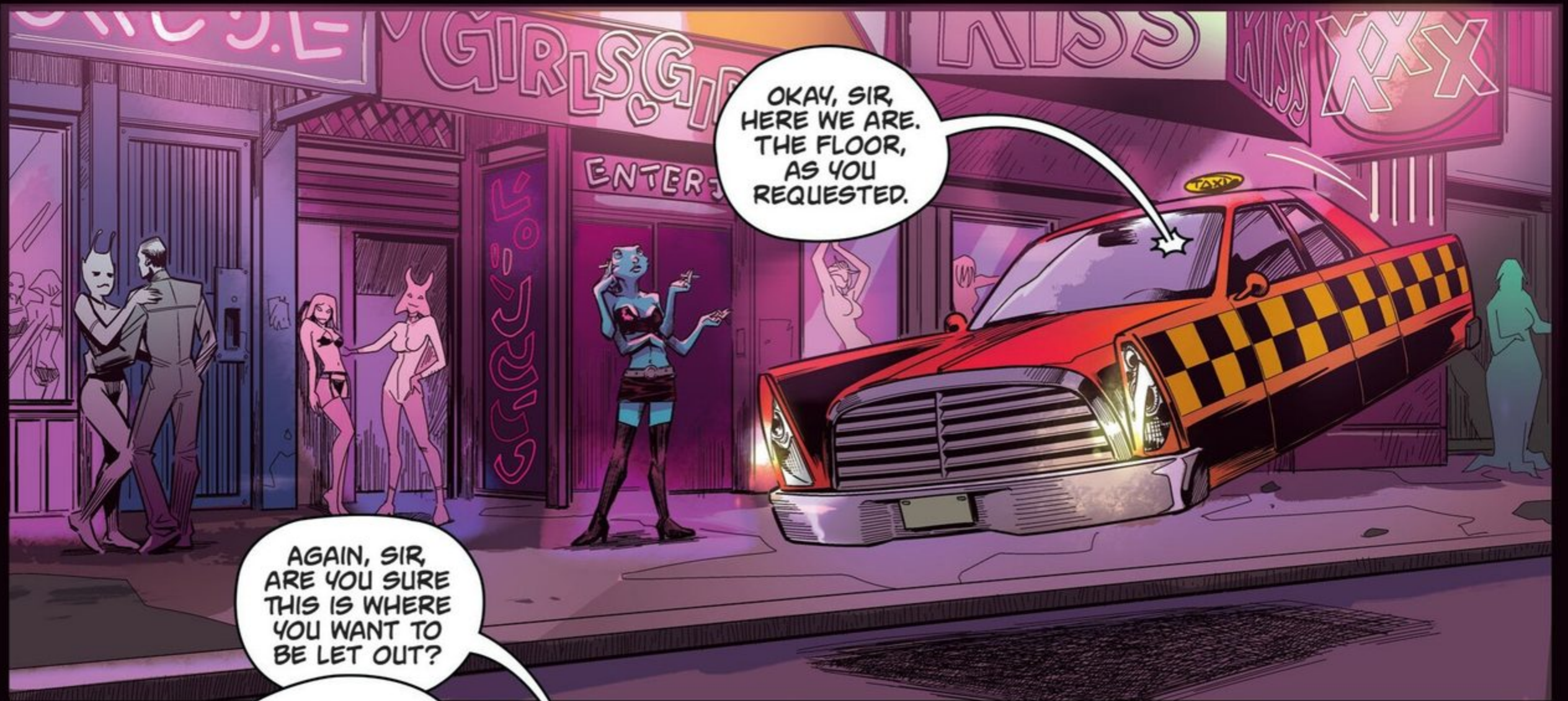


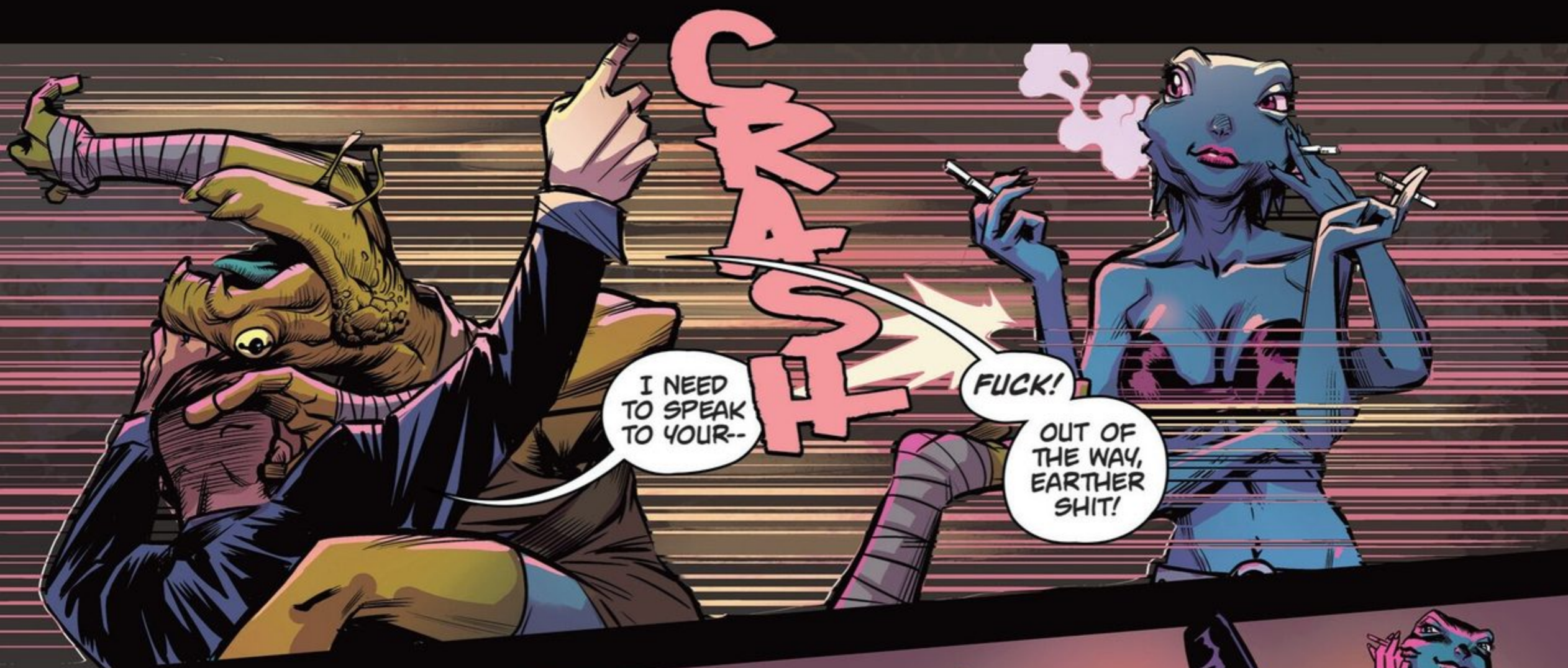
BUT
WHERE
THE FUCK
IS HE
GOING TO
GO?

GOOOOOOD
AFTERNOON,
METRO 1! YOU'RE
LISTENING TO MIX,
SATELLITE RADIO
FOR A SATELLITE
CITY!

WE'LL GET
YOU BACK TO
THE ASTEROID'S
BIGGEST HITS IN
JUST A MINUTE,
BUT FIRST--THE
WEATHER!







THUNDER!

I'VE GOT EYES
ON, BUT DON'T LOSE
HIM! WHO KNOWS WHAT
KIND OF RATHOLES HE
COULD BOLT IN
DOWN HERE.

KEEP COOL,
AKELDAMA. I CAN
TRACE THAT
TRACKER YOU PUT
ON HIM ANYWHERE
ON METRO 1.

SHIT! THE
COPS DOWN
HERE ARE AS
BAD AS THE
CRIMINALS!

NOT
COP.

BLOOD.







SHIT!
I LOST
HIM.

HOLD
ON, I'M
TRACKING
HIM.



GOT
HIS ASS.
LEFT AT
THIS ALLEY
YOU'RE
COMING
UP ON.



CAN YOU TRACK ANY
BETTER THAN THAT,
THUNDER? I DON'T
SEE ANY SIGN OF
HIM.

TRASH
INCINERATOR.
IT'S NOT
GIVING OFF ANY
SIGNAL. IT'S
OFFLINE.



SON OF
A BITCH.



HERP,
YOU
CLEVER
BOY.



SHIT!

SHIT!



GOTTA...
DITCH
ALL MY--

SHIT!



GET
IN THE
BOWL!



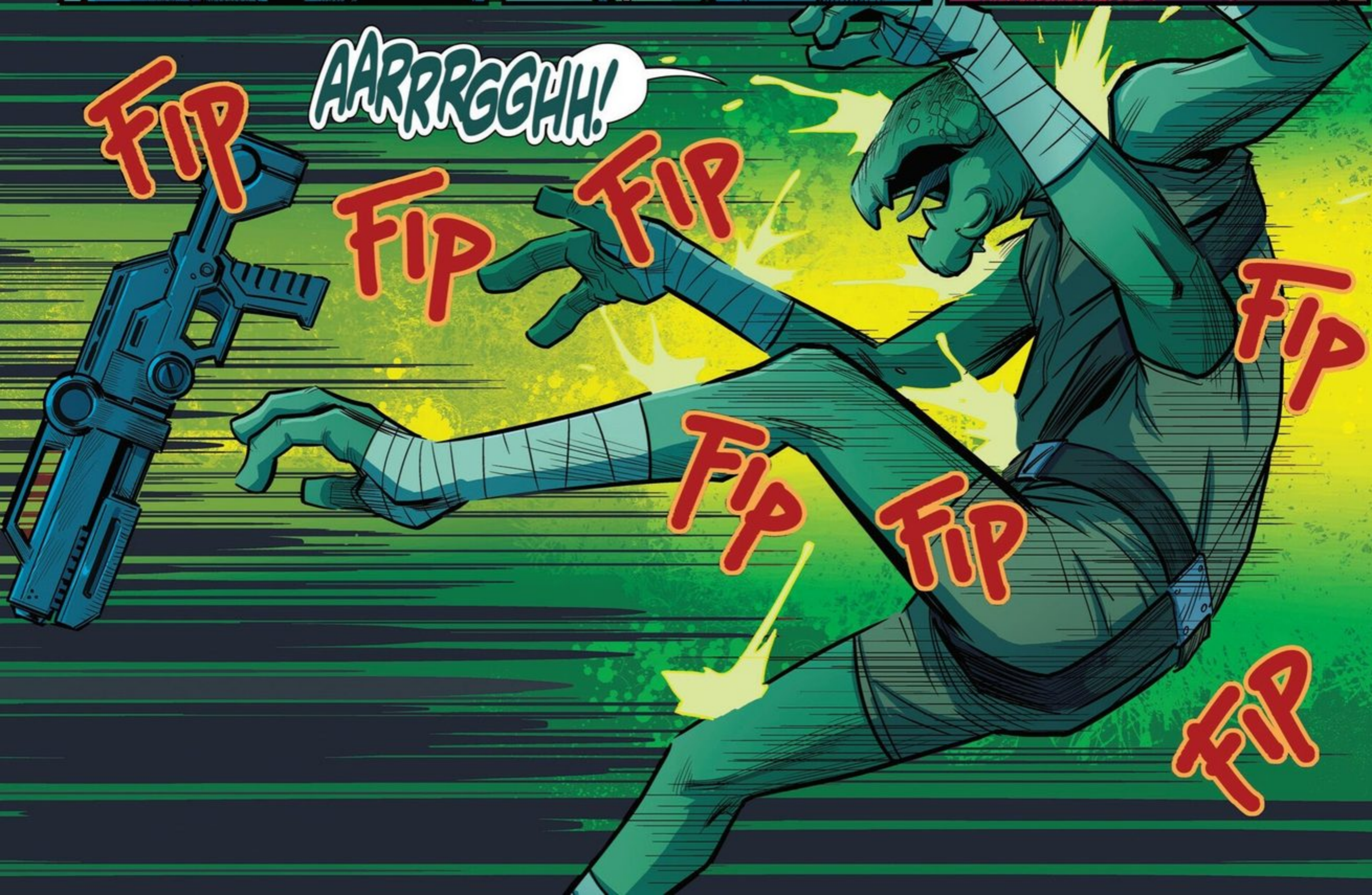
FLUSH,
GOD-
DAMMIT!

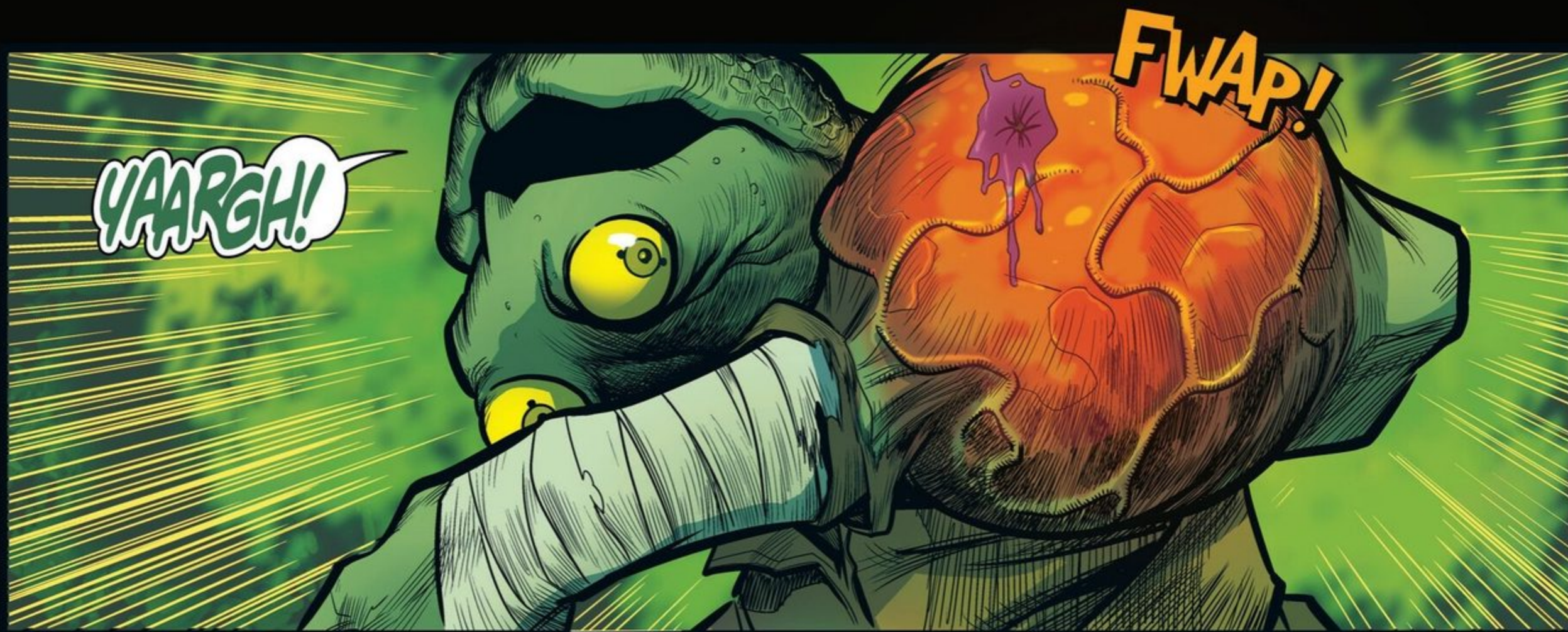
THUNDER,
GIMME LIQUID
LOCKSMITH.



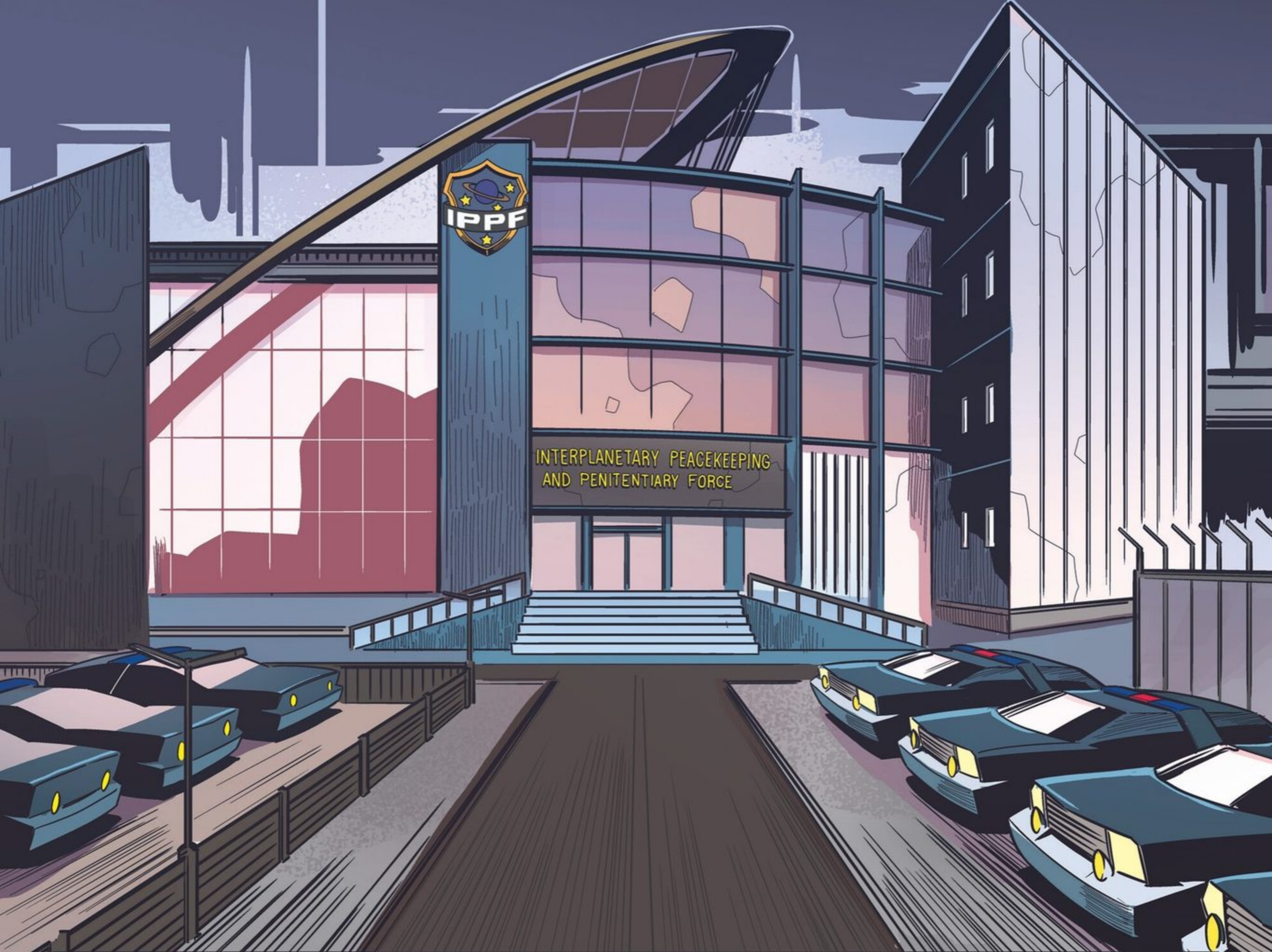


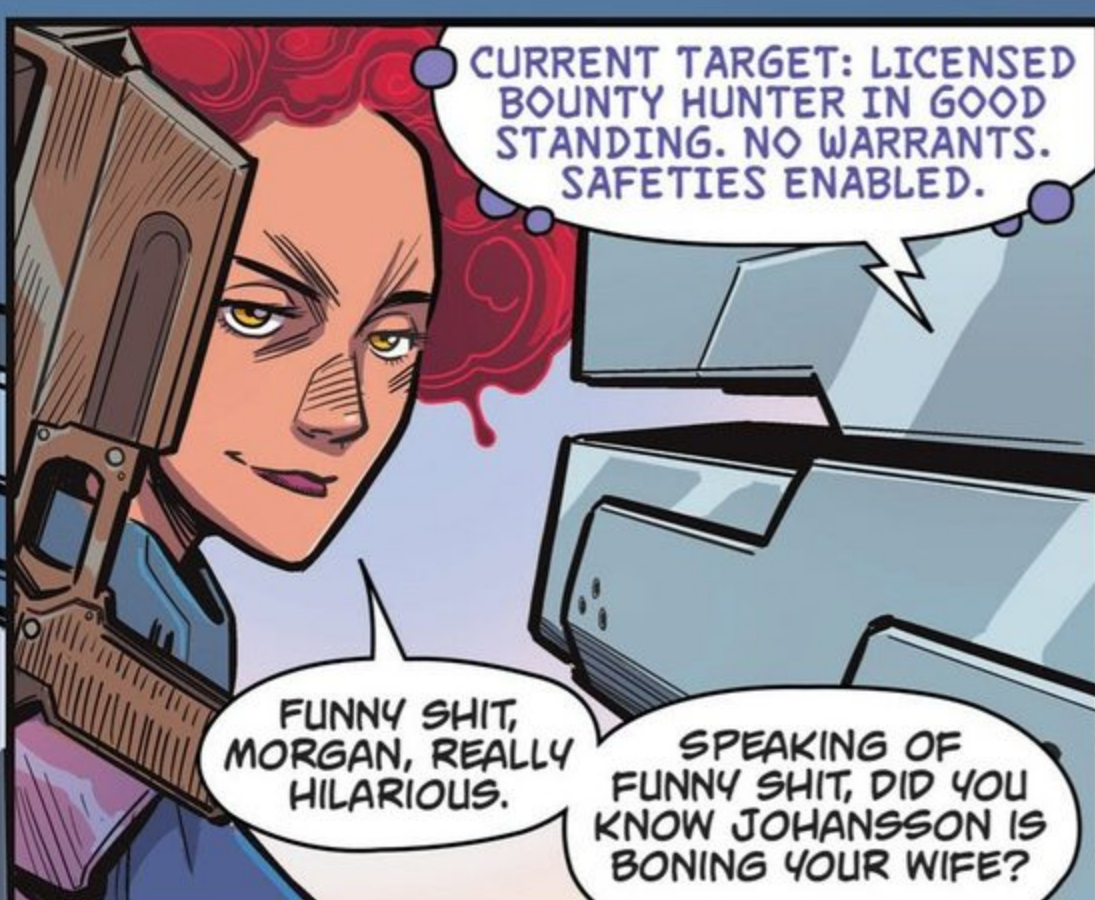














GREG AMUNDSEN
SECTION CHIEF
TOPSIDE PRECINCT

CHIEF
AMUNDSEN?

YOU
WANTED
TO SEE
ME, SIR?

AKELDA-
ER, BLED SOE!
COME IN,
COME IN! HAVE
A SEAT!

GREAT JOB ON
BRINGING OUR
FRIEND HERP BACK
TO US AGAIN FOR
ANOTHER STAY AT
CHEZ IPPE.

YEAH,
THANKS,
CHIEF, BUT
NO BIG
DEAL. I--

YOU ALWAYS
DO A GREAT JOB
ON THE LOWER
TIERS WHERE WE
CAN'T EVEN GET
THOSE EXOS TO
TALK TO US.

IT'S NICE
TO HAVE ONE
LIKE YOU ON
OUR SIDE FOR
A CHANGE.

...
THANKS,
CHIEF.
HAPPY TO
HELP.





LOOK, IT DOESN'T MATTER. YOU DID A GREAT JOB GETTING THESE IN SO WE CAN **DESTROY** THEM LIKE METRO COUNCIL WANTS.

IN FACT, YOU ALWAYS DO A GREAT JOB. BUT YOU KNOW I THINK YOU COULD DO A BETTER JOB AS AN IPPF OFFICER.



WELL, SIR, YOU KNOW I AGREE, BUT... UH...

WELL--



HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT GIVING THE ACADEMY ANOTHER TRY?



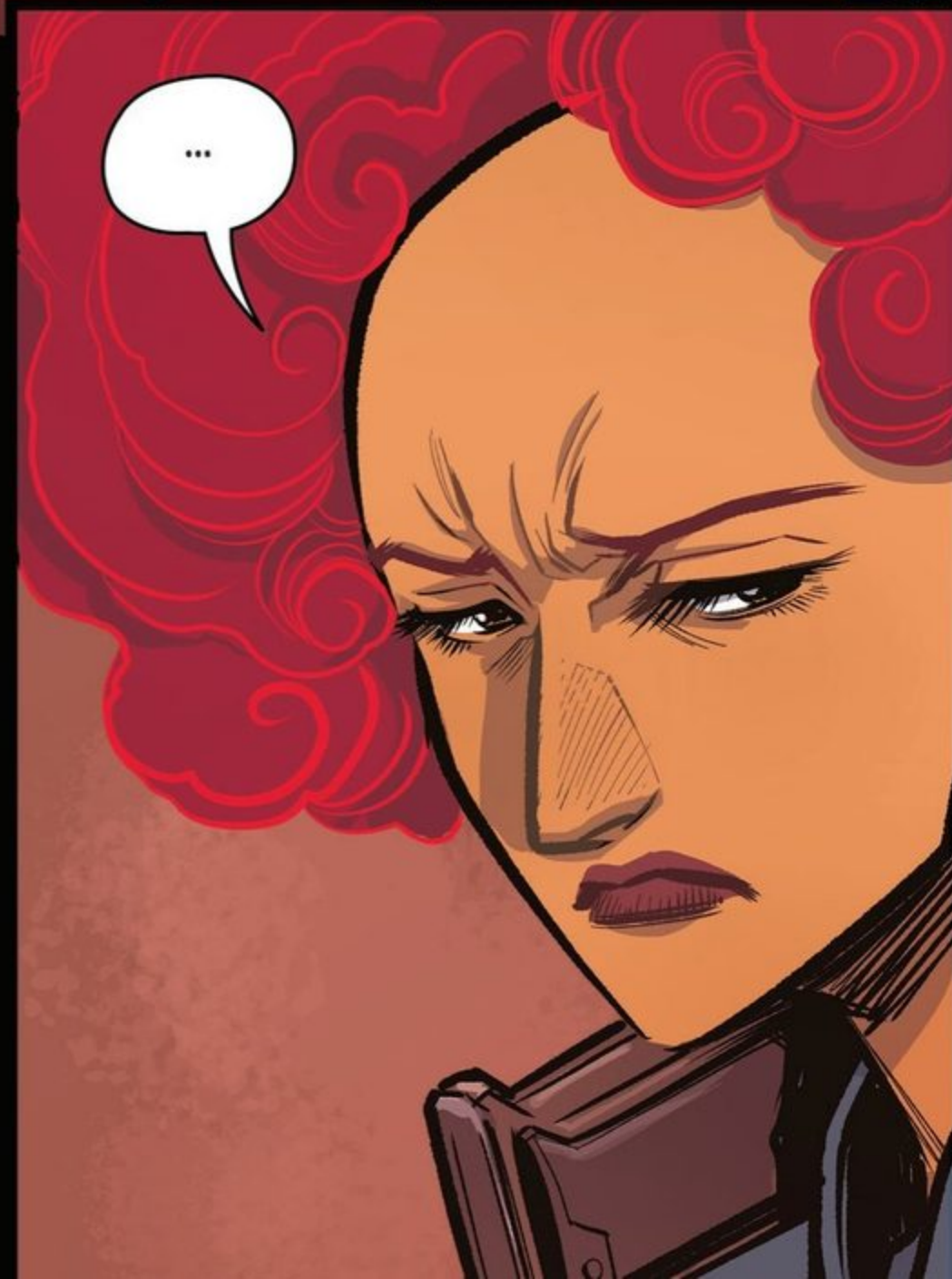
CHIEF, WE'VE BEEN THROUGH THIS. I-I TRIED THE ACADEMY.

I COULDN'T HACK IT. YOU KNOW, MY TEMPER AND ALL. I WASN'T SUITED--

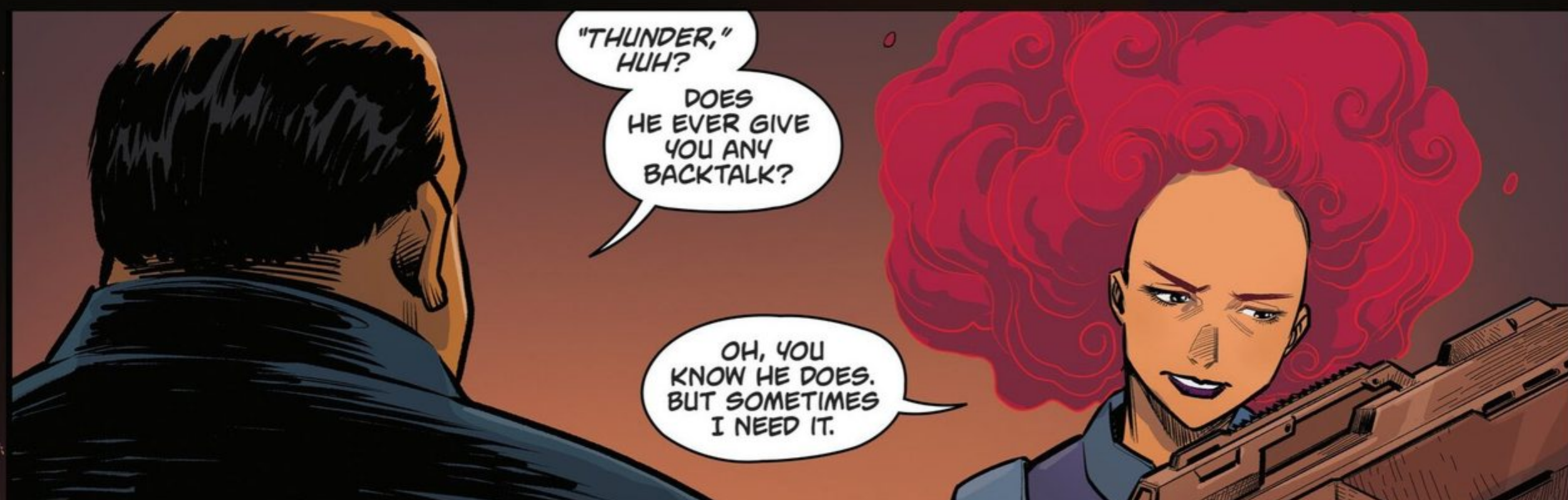
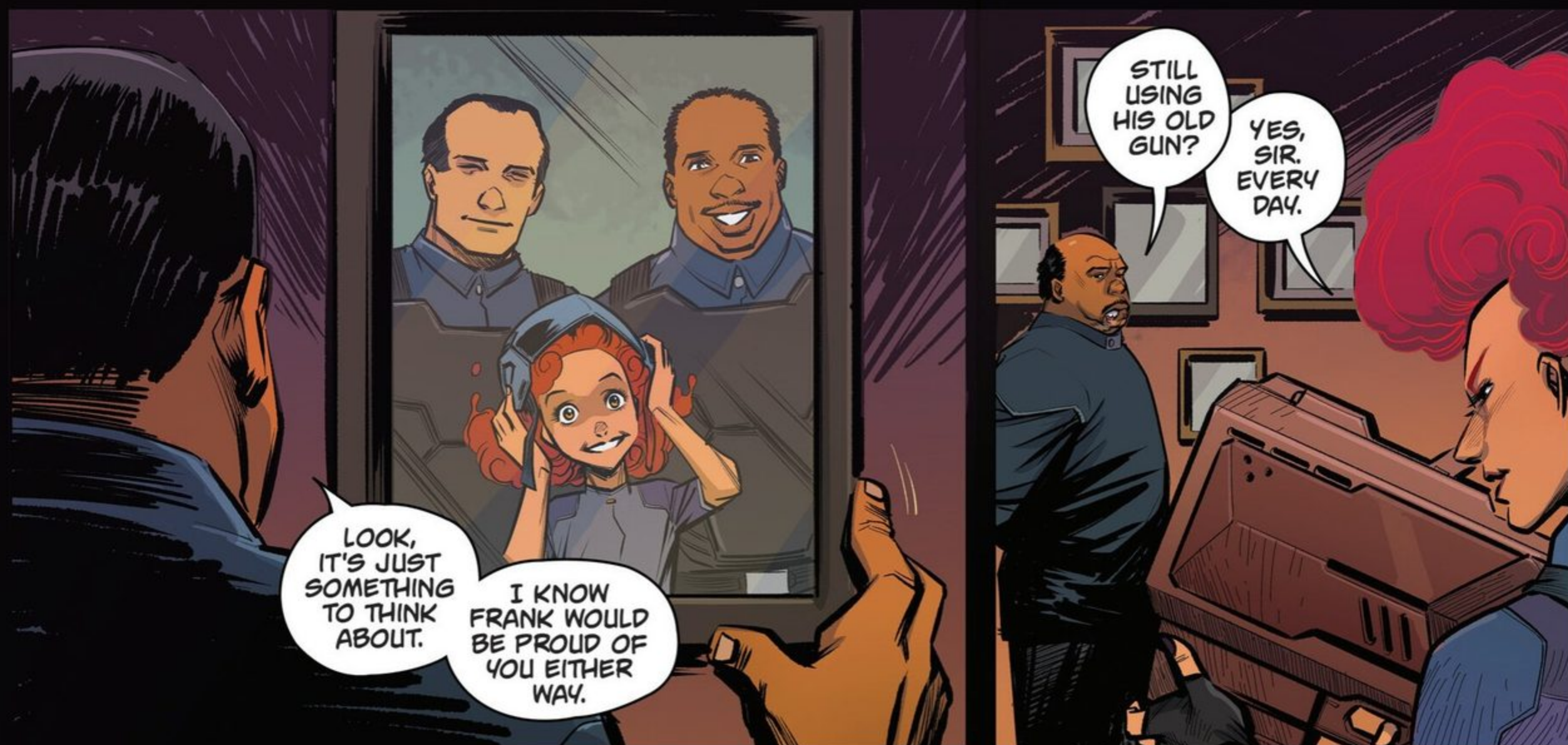


YOU COULDN'T HACK IT?

OR WAS IT MORE LIKE THOSE BOYS AT THE ACADEMY COULDN'T DEAL WITH GETTING SHOWN UP BY AN EXO WITH A HUMAN NAME?



...





WELL, I MOSTLY WANTED TO CHECK ON YOU AND CONGRATULATE YOU ON ANOTHER GOOD BUST. IS YOUR MOM STILL DOING OKAY?

YES, SIR, LAST I CHECKED ON HER. THANK YOU FOR ASKING.



GOOD, GOOD. GLAD TO HEAR IRENE IS DOING WELL.

LET ME KNOW IF YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND. ABOUT THE ACADEMY OR THE GUN.



YES, SIR, OF COURSE I WILL. THANK YOU.

TAKE THE NIGHT OFF, BLEDSOE. YOU'VE EARNED IT. YOU KNOW WE'LL CALL YOU IF WE NEED YOU, BUT--





"--HOPEFULLY THERE WON'T BE ANY MORE TROUBLE TONIGHT."

HEADING TOWARD BLOCK X NOW.

ANY WORD AT ALL FROM THE GUARDS ON MEAL DUTY TO X?

NONE, SIR. HOPEFULLY IT'S JUST A TECH MALFUNCTION.

ROGER THAT. CALL FOR BACK UP IF YOU NEED IT.



YOU READY FOR THIS, REEVES?

I'M NEVER READY TO GO INTO CELL BLOCK X, MAN.

AND TO BE HONEST, I WOULDN'T TRUST ANYONE WHO WAS.



KA-CHUNK





So, where in the world did Blood & Thunder come from?

Well, this is a funny story about just how haphazard the creation process can be, for me at least. So, this all started about twenty years ago, when I had a dumb idea. Someone said "ooh la la" around me and I thought, hey... that'd be a cool alien name. You know, Oola Lah, sort of like a Star Wars name, but it sounds cool.

So, I called my good friend Benito Cereno up and said, "You have any interest in writing a comic about an attractive space lady named Oola Lah?" After I explained the origins of such a notion, we had some kind of vague conversation about what the book could actually be, and I sent him off to write a script.

Being the responsible person he is, he turned a full issue 1 script in a short time later, for a book that would have been called (as near as I can tell) OOLA LAH: SPACE POLICE. Yeah, I know, not the greatest title. But it seemed cool at the time. Unfortunately, this was around the same time that THE WALKING DEAD was getting made into a TV show and I was moving to Los Angeles and things were... pretty hectic. So, unfortunately OOLA LAH: SPACE POLICE sort of sat on a shelf indefinitely.

Now, things are a little hazy, but at some point, I was reading an old interview with Jack Kirby. An interview I, for the life of me, cannot find today. So, who knows, maybe it was a dream. As I recall, in the interview Jack Kirby said something to the effect of "Good comics have to bring the BLOOD & THUNDER." Well, hearing those two words together really sent my mind racing. Sometimes you hear a turn of phrase and you're compelled to turn it into a title and find something that works with it. It's just... too good.

Sidebar: My smell test as far as titles go is to imagine two people talking at a water cooler. "Hey, did you read the new BLOOD & THUNDER?" has a much better ring to it than "Hey, did you read the new OOLA LAH: SPACE POLICE?" More people should hold titles to this standard. "Hey, did you read the new MY HEART REMAINS AT THE BOTTOM OF LAKE MISERY." doesn't work! Stop making titles so long, people! (Moving on.)

Around the same time as I read this Jack Kirby interview, my dear friend E.J. Su contacted me, saying he was wanting to get back into full time comics. E.J. and I created two books together back in the early aughts. TECH JACKET and CLOUDFALL. They were among my earliest works published by Image. Shortly after those books ended, E.J. decided to get a real job and focused on comics as a side project, drawing some very cool Transformers comics for IDW and some other things, but now he was ready to come back and give it a go full time. I couldn't have been more thrilled, but at the same time, my dance card was packed.

But I did have that BLOOD & THUNDER title rattling around in my head.

So, as I recall, I called up Benito and said "Oola Lah is now named BLOOD and she has a floating cloud of blood around her head and she now has a sentient A.I. gun named THUNDER. Want to do that as a new book with E.J. Su?" To which Benito replied: "Hell yeah!" and then dusted off that old issue 1 script and well, pretty much rewrote it from scratch.

This is a real passion project for me because I've known Benito and E.J. for the longest time, all the way back to the self-published BATTLE POPE days. So, to be here in the far-flung future of 2025 doing a new comic series with them, well... it's pretty dang great.

Anyway, the book turned out cool as hell! I think you're really going to dig it.

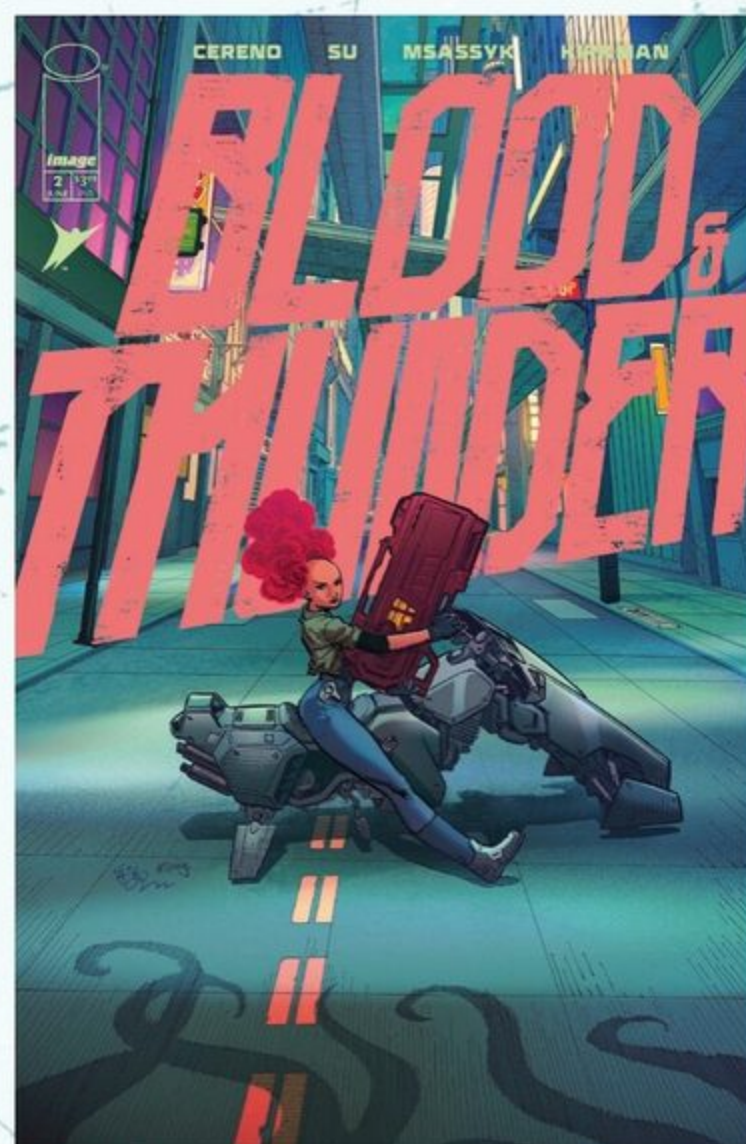
Why'd it turn out so good? Well, MSASSYK was able to color E.J.'s amazing work and honestly, I think it's the best he's ever looked. She's an exceptional colorist, and we're all thrilled to have her on board.

Similarly, Rus Wooton has brought yet another lettering style to another of my books. He's so versatile! It always blows me away how he's able to find exactly what a book needs.

Now, this is a book that we've been working on behind the scenes for... a number of years... so expect us to ship monthly like clockwork for a good long time!

Blood and Thunder have a pretty long and evolving adventure laid out ahead of them. You'll never guess where this story goes! So buckle up, and get ready for a wild ride!

-Robert Kirkman
Backwoods, CA
2025



ISSUE TWO
AVAILABLE JUNE 11, 2025

Send your questions to bloodandthunder@skybound.com and mark "OK to print".

COLLECT ALL THE COVERS!



E.J. SU & MSASSYK



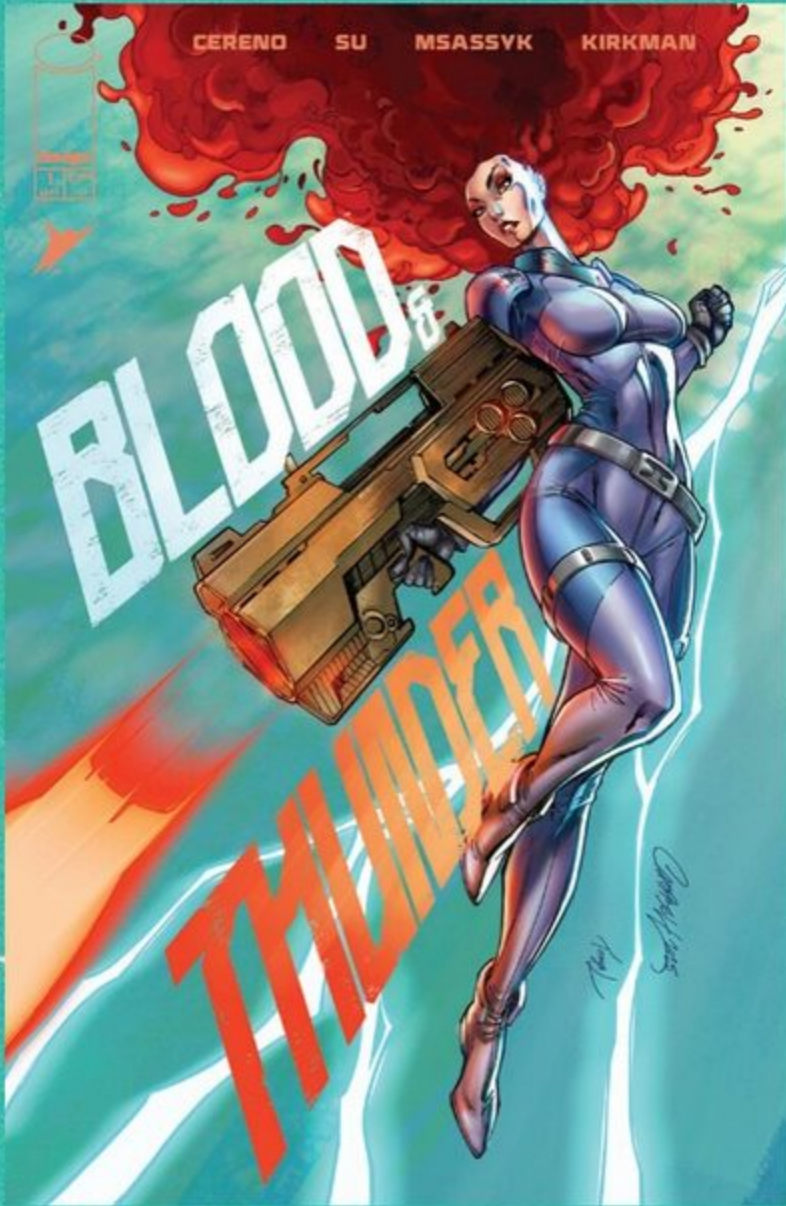
DAVID LOPEZ



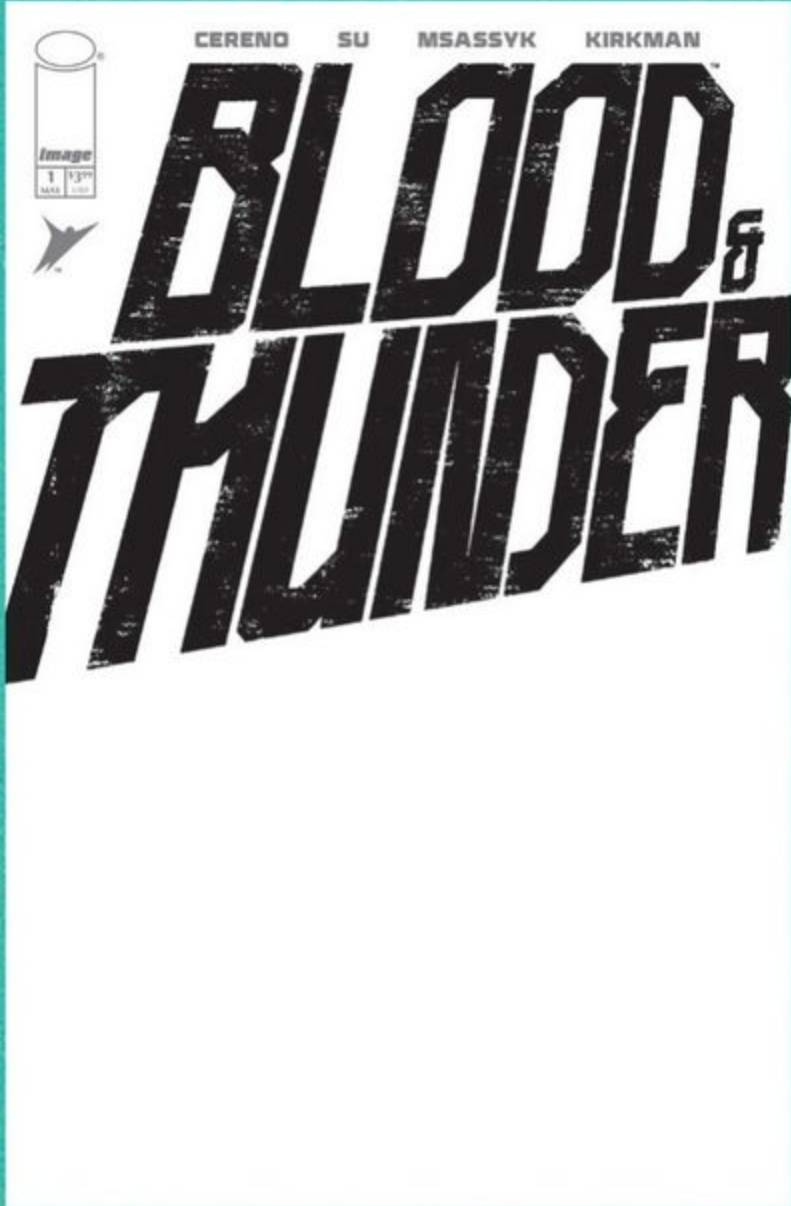
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& TANYA LEHOUX



BLANK SKETCH COVER

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